

**KETTLESHULME ST JAMES**  
**CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**RELIGIOUS**  
**EDUCATION**  
**POLICY**

**AUTUMN 2024**  
**Review Date – Summer 2027**  
**Non-Statutory Policy – Teaching and**  
**Learning Committee**

## **The Importance of Religious Education**

*“No other aspect of school life can ensure, better than RE, that school is experienced by staff and students alike not as a fact factory but as a laboratory for learning the values and virtues, attitudes and aptitudes which make for the wholeness of body, mind and spirit,” (Saxbee 2013)*

*Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10) It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together. Religious Education in Church of England Schools, A Statement of Entitlement 2019*

RE raises challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.

RE encourages pupils to learn about and learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring their own beliefs and seeking answers to big questions.

RE makes a distinctive contribution to pupils' learning by enabling them to reflect upon themselves as whole people, experiencing life through the body, the mind and the spirit.

The purpose of RE is to help pupils understand the significance of religion and its contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Our Church of England School seeks to express the Christian faith in all aspects of school life.

RE provision in our school will help in the spiritual formation of pupils as they explore life's big questions and where God is in them. Our actions are guided by our Christian values and our concern to do the best for our children and wider school community as we encourage all pupils, regardless of their faith tradition, to 'soar like eagles from our loving branch.'

## **Introduction**

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of Religious Education at Kettleshulme St James Primary School.

**The spiritual and moral development of our children underpins all aspects of our school life.**

## **Legal Requirements**

Kettleshulme St James is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, therefore Religious Education must be taught in accordance with the Trust Deed and should reflect the rites, practices and beliefs of the Church of England. The governing body is responsible for the subject in the school. This is delegated to the Headteacher and the Religious Education subject leader/coordinator on a daily basis.

Religious Education will be allocated not less than 5% of the timetable. In Key Stage 1 this amounts to between 40-50 minutes per week totalling 36 hours over the year. In Key Stage 2 children should be taught Religious Education for 1 ¼ hours per week totalling 45 hours over the year. At our school, staff ensure coverage by block planning units of work for each term.

## **Withdrawals**

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, parents must give written notice to the Headteacher, who will ensure that appropriate staff are notified. Staff will undertake responsibility for the supervision of withdrawn pupils with regard to health and safety, alternative work will be provided.

## **Aims**

The purpose of teaching Religious Education in school is to:

- To show children that Christianity is about following the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and is relevant to their daily lives.
- To extend children's ability to reflect upon themselves as whole people, experiencing life through body, mind and spirit.
- To help pupils understand the significance of religion and its contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To develop an understanding of and respect for the religious beliefs and practices of World Faiths and belief systems.

## **Principles**

Within our School Family we nurture our core Christian values of Hard work, Empowerment, Acceptance, Thankfulness, 'HEART'. These values are integral to our school. We live them on a daily basis and celebrate their demonstration. Our school HEART and Ethos Ambassadors help to maintain awareness of our values and the importance of HEART. Our values are grounded in the bible passages; 'The Good Shepherd' and 'The Mustard Seed'.

We aim through our teaching

- To provide a Religious Education within the framework of the *Diocese of Chester Agreed Syllabus* appropriate to the educational needs of the children in our school, at their different stages of development. It is supported, where possible, with Understanding Christianity guidance.
- To contribute to the spiritual, social and moral development of the school as a caring community and the pupils as individuals.
- To assist and encourage experience of Christian life and worship.
- Through study of major world religions to encourage and understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity of religious belief and practice in society today.

## **We aim to encourage children in our school**

- To grow in awareness of others through learning activities involving sharing and co-operation and to develop trust and respect for others.
- To formulate their own sense of purpose in life and to embark upon a personal search for a faith by which to live.
- To learn something of the religious experiences of others.
- To develop their own beliefs, values and ideals in the light of their experiences
- To develop respect for other people, their beliefs and their life-styles.
- To develop an enquiring attitude towards religion.

## **Entitlement**

- In the main, Religious Education will be taught as a discrete subject although the approach may vary. For example in Key Stage 1 it may be more appropriate to integrate some areas of the Religious Study programme into a general topic with a thematic approach.
- Religious Education in school is organized using a whole school overview or plan. This lays out which units, or themes, should be studied by each year group.
- We follow the 'Questful RE' Curriculum which is approved by Chester Diocese.

- Wherever possible all children will learn from primary source material as well as through the use of outside speakers with relevant experience and audio-visual aids. Visits to places of worship and drama workshops and visiting theatre companies also support the work of Religious Education in school

## **Implementation**

- Religious Education will be taught throughout the school. Mainly by the class teacher and may be supported from time to time by clergy from local churches and visiting speakers.
- Religious Education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually.
- Visits to local churches and/or other places of worship.
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:
  - ◊ Teacher presentations, role play and story telling.
  - ◊ Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates.
  - ◊ Individual and group research.
  - ◊ Photographs, pictures and maps
  - ◊ Technology such as iPads and laptops used to research and communicate ideas.
  - ◊ Creative arts; art, music, poetry.
- Progression will be guided by the Diocese of Chester Agreed Syllabus
- Religious Education may be integrated with other subjects as appropriate for example ICT, Art, History and PSHE.
- Religious Education resources will be reviewed and updated regularly considering budgetary constraints.
- Classroom support will be welcomed under the guidance of the teacher, eg. skilled individuals and parents etc.

## **Special Educational Needs.**

Children with special educational needs will work alongside the other children in their group, as in other curriculum areas, but differentiation in approach, language and expected outcome will be appropriate to the varying needs in the class. We aim to meet the full entitlement of every child in our school. To optimize inclusion the children's differing needs for learning (including children with special educational needs) will be addressed through differentiated activities.

## **See separate SEND Policy**

## **Impact**

Learning will meet the needs of all learners who will develop a range of skills, including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection. Pupils will have a safe space in which to explore their own beliefs, develop a sense of belonging and purpose and reflect upon the way in which they interpret the world. Pupils will be able to engage in respectful, meaningful and purposeful dialogue with others including those they disagree with.

## **Equal Opportunities**

Religious Education as an essential part of the curriculum should be relevant, worthwhile and accessible to all. It should express that all pupils are loved and valued by God as part of creation. We aim to help the children in our school to respect themselves and to be sensitive to the needs of others.

## **Planning, Assessment, Reporting and Record Keeping**

- Staff plan units of work following the 'Questful RE' curriculum.
- Planning is delivered on a 2 year cycle due to mixed age classes within the school
- Teaching and learning may focus upon a 'big question' that the series of lessons will explore and unpick.
- RE is assessed in line with the school policy of assessment and meets the requirements of the Chester Diocese approved syllabus.
- In order to show progress towards the end of Key Stage expectations, the staff appreciate that assessment of progress in RE should be undertaken with sensitivity, based upon the teacher's observations of the child in class or group discussions, activities or recorded work.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- The Headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- The RE subject leader will assist the Headteacher by monitoring Long Term and Medium Term plans.
- The subject leader will manage resources.
- The subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in Religious Education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- The subject leader will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development.
- The subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice.
- The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for Religious Education. Generally this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.